

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 4, 8, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claim 12 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in a prior amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 13-21 remain pending in this application.

Power of Attorney - Change of Correspondence Address

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MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, PC
1800 Diagonal Road
Suite 370
Alexandria, VA 22314

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35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-11 and 13-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ching (U.S. Patent No. 6,533,168 - hereafter "Ching"). Applicant

respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections for the following reasons.

Ching is directed to producing a receipt 109 having printed thereon a machine-readable dataform pattern 108, such as a barcode (see, e.g., col. 7, lines 50-54). The dataform 108 contains encoded transaction data regarding details of a corresponding transaction. A scanning device is able to read the dataform 108 and obtain relevant transaction information about the prior transaction (col. 8, lines 13-17). In another aspect, the scanning device is able to scan the purchaser's handwritten notations in a designated area 304 of the receipt and convert the scanned imagery into text for storage as comments associated with the transaction (col. 10, lines 32-55). Thus, Ching requires creation and reading of a specialized receipt having a predetermined format (see, e.g., col. 10, line 56, through col. 11, line 27 and FIG. 3), and Ching fails to teach or suggest a scanner able to scan various types of receipts having no predefined format, as in the present invention.

For example, under Applicant's invention, receipts of no predefined format are able to be scanned, such as grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses so that the position or layout of the expense information on each receipt is not predetermined. Applicant's claim 1 includes the limitation of "a scanner to scan various types of receipts", and similarly, Applicant's independent claim 13 includes the limitation of "a scanner for scanning various types of receipts of no predefined format". Further, Applicant's

independent claim 18 includes "providing a scanner for scanning various types of receipts" and "wherein the position of the expense information on each receipt is not predetermined".

Ching fails to teach these limitations of independent claims 1, 13 and 18 because the receipts of Ching are all required to be of a particular type having the particular format illustrated in FIG. 3 of Ching and as described at, e.g., col. 10, line 56, through col. 11, line 27 of Ching. The receipts of Ching are required to have dataform 108, an attention symbol 119, and an endsearch symbol 120. Further, the transaction information that the scanner of Ching is able to collect is limited to what is included in the dataform 108, and thus, is dependent on the dataform 108 being provided with specific information from the source of the receipt. This is much more restricted than the present invention in which receipts from any source may be scanned and the financial data collected therefrom automatically.

Ching teaches a system having limited application in which a specialized printer 102 and software must be provided for creating each of the specialized receipts 109 used by Ching. Thus, any receipt used in Ching's system must be printed by a printer 102 that creates dataform 108. Ching discusses at col. 9, lines 6-11, that a receipt 109 may optionally contain a variety of information including human readable transaction data 107, a dataform 108, an attention symbol 119, an endsearch symbol 120, and handwritten notations 304. However, Ching does not teach or suggest scanning the human readable transaction data 107 or processing

this data 107 in any way. Further, while Ching does teach that a purchaser can make handwritten notations in area 304 of receipt 109 for purposes of categorization, this is an additional required step not required under the present invention. Accordingly, Ching does not teach that various different types of receipts can be scanned and have the financial data automatically collected. Further Ching fails to teach or suggest collecting expense information from scanned receipts, categorizing the expense information into predetermined categories, and combining the categorized information with that of other receipts to obtain and display report information. Thus, independent claims 1, 13 and 18 are patentable over Ching, whether taken singly or in combination with the other art of record.

The remaining claims depend from these claims, are directed to additional patentable features of the invention, and are allowable at least because they depend from allowable base claims. For example, dependent claim 4 includes that "the apparatus is configured to process receipts of no predefined format that include grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts or bank statements having different widths and thicknesses." As discussed above, Ching fails to teach or suggest this because all the receipts of Ching must follow the specified format of receipt 109, and cannot be of different widths and thicknesses. Further, grocery receipts, purchase receipts, credit card receipts and bank statements all have formats that are different from each other and also different from the format set forth in receipt 109 of Ching having the specified dataform 108. Accordingly, dependent

claim 4 is patentable over Ching, and dependent claim 14, which is directed to similar subject matter, is patentable under a similar rationale.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 4, 8, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended to correct minor informalities noted by Applicant. As these changes do not affect the subject matter of these claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments be entered into the application so as to put the claims into better condition for presentation on appeal.

Period for Response

As this Amendment was filed within two months of the mailing date of the final Action, should an Advisory Action be mailed more than three months from the mailing date of the final Action, the period for reply expires on the mailing date of the Advisory Action.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


Colin D. Barnitz
Registration No. 35,061

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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